

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4722

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 0637

FOR EUR/EE ONLY - 3 COPIES ONLY

FOR ANDREWS FROM WORTZEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. WE HAVE A NUMBER OF SIGNALS FOR THE TITO VISIT FROM AN
"INFORMAL" CONVERSATION WITH STARCEVIC YESTERDAY. PENDING
FORMAL CONFIRMATION OF THE VISIT DATES--PROMISED FOR NEXT
WEEK--AND MORE FORMAL DISCUSSION OF THE PROGRAM, LET ME PASS
THEM ALONG:

A. THE YUGOSLAVS WILL COUNT ON A JOINT COMMUNIQUE, AND
WILL SUPPLY A SUGGESTED TEXT ALONG THE WAY (THEY ARE NOT UNAWARE
OF OUR PRACTICE ON THAT SCORE).

B. AN ADDRESS TO A JOINT SESSION OF THE CONGRESS WOULD
BE GREATLY VALUED. (HERE, TOO, THEY KNOW OF THE CHANGE IN
CONGRESSIONAL PRACTICE.) WE HERE FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT THE
LAST-REMAINING-WARTIME-LEADER FACTOR SHOULD WEIGH WITH THE
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AND, IF YOU BELIEVE IT USEFUL, THE
AMBASSADOR WOULD WANT TO TRY TO PERSUADE THE VICE PRESIDENT,
SENATORS BYRD, BAKER AND SPARKMAN, AND REPS O'NEILL, RHODES
AND ZABLOCKI, AND OTHERS IF DESIRED, OF THE WISDOM OF
MAKING A ONE-TIME EXCEPTION.

C. THE YUGOSLAVS DO NOT WISH AN HONORARY DEGREE TO BE
PRESENTED, IN WASHINGTON OR ELSEWHERE.

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D. THE YUGOSLAVS WILL PROBABLY PREFER TO MAKE THEIR
OWN ARRANGEMENTS FOR A REST STOP ENROUTE TO WASHINGTON.
(THIS SOUNDS LIKE A BRIEF CALL IN CANADA.)

E. THEY ARE, NOT SURPRISINGLY, ANXIOUS THAT THE VISIT
GET STRONG MEDIA COVERAGE. THEY PLAN TO OFFER A PRE-VISIT
INTERVIEW TO SCOTTY RESTON, AND POSSIBLY TO CRONKITE.
(WOULD YOU PLEASE HAVE SOMEONE CONTACT RESTON ON BEHALF OF THE

AMBASSADOR TO TELL HIM THAT HE WILL BE CONTACTED BY VELOVSKI ABOUT AN INTERVIEW. WHEN HE (SCOTTY) COMES TO BELGRADE THE AMBASSADOR WILL COUNT ON HIS STAYING AT THE RESIDENCE.)

2. GIVEN THE ACTIVE AND PERSISTENT INTEREST BERNARDIC HAS SHOWN IN THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON MAP, IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY EMBARRASSING FOR US NOT TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND-- AND IN A FORTHCOMING WAY--TO THE YUGOSLAVS. YOU HAVE OUR SMYPATHY IN YOUR EFFORTS TO TEAR AN ADEQUATE REACTION OUT OF L, AND WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY THEY NEED SO LONG TO ACT. IF YOU CANNOT BLAST THEM OPEN AND BELIEVE THAT A DIRECT BLAST FROM HERE WILL HELP, PLEASE LET US KNOW. WE ARE, AS YOU KNOW, NOT TRYING TO SUPPORT THE YUGOSLAV POSITION-QUITE THE CONTRARY--BUT NEED A COUNTER-PROPOSAL WHICH MAKES SENSE.

3. WE FOUND USIA'S APPROACH ON ZAGREB FAIR MANAGEMENT (USIA 6561) EMINENTLY REASONABLE AND FORTHCOMING. WITH A USIA TECHNICAL EXPERT TO SET UP THE USIS EXHIBIT, IT SHOULD BE CLEAR TO COMMERCE THAT AN OVERALL DIRECTOR FROM COMMERCE IS ESSENTIAL AND APPROPRIATE. GOOD LUCK.

4. AN INTRIGUING TANJUG REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA HAS RAISES IN OUR MINDS THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT, OR FOR THAT MATTER ANYONE IN WASHINGTON, FOLLOWS TANJUG'S REPORTING. DOES FBIS, FOR INSTANCE, COVER TANJUG VIA RADIO, OR IF NOT, HOW IS TANJUG COVERED? PROCEEDING, AS WE HAVE, ON THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ASSUMPTION THAT TANJUG IS WATCHED FAIRLY CLOSELY, AND WISHING STRICTLY TO MINIMIZE STRAIGHT "PRESS REPORTING" ESPECIALLY IF IT DOES NOT DEAL WITH YUGOSLAVIA, WE HAVE NOT FELT THE NEED TO RE-REPORT OCCASIONAL TANJUG PIECES OF LIKELY INTEREST TO THE DEPARTMENT. FROM OUR ADMITTEDLY LIMITED PERSPECTIVE, TANJUG OCCASIONALLY SEEMS TO RIVAL OR SURPASS WESTERN NEWS AGENCIES INTIMELY COVERAGE OF EVENTS, SPECIFICALLY IN THE PRC, HORN OF AFRICA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA. IS OUR PRESENT ASSUMPTION AND PRACTICE OF NOT REPORTING TANJUG CORRECT?

5. WE COMMEND TO YOUR ATTENTION AND TO SAM FROMOWITZ' MORE PARTICULARLY A YUGOSLAV IVP GRANTEE-TO-BE, DUSAN SEKIC, CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY'S COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPING AREAS. (SEE BELGRADE 0458 FOR DETAILS). SEKIC'S VISIT OFFERS A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO BUREAUCRATS, BUSINESSMEN AND BANKERS TO SPEAK TO A KNOWLEDGEABLE LEGISLATOR ABOUT LAWS AFFECTING FOREIGN INVESTMENT HERE. MAYBE SAM CAN GET COMMERCE OR THE US-YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC COUNCIL TO HELP ARRANGE MEETINGS OR SEMINAR-TYPE GATHERINGS WITH INTERESTED BUSINESSMEN. SEKIC IS, BY THE WAY, INTERESTED IN US LEGISLATION RELATING TO DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. MAYBE SAM COULD

CHECK WITH THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS FOR TEXTS OF ANYTHING PERTINENT (E.G. APPALACHIA DEVELOPMENT) AND POUCH IT, IF POSSIBLE ARRIVING BEFORE SEKIC LEAVES FEBRUARY 20.

6. WE HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY THE TONE AND SOPHISTICATION OF A POLITIKA EDITORIAL COMMENTING ON THE FIRST YEAR OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. IN THE BELIEF THAT YOU MAY FIND IT USEFUL AROUND TOWN, I AM SENDING THE TEXT IN THE NEXT FOLLOWING MESSAGE.

7. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED (STATE 21036) THAT WE ARE FROZEN OUT OF FILLING A KEY FSL VACANCY IN THE ECON/COMMERCIAL SECTION. QUITE APART FROM THE FACT THAT WE HAVE A HARD-TO-GET HIGHLY QUALIFIED CANDIDATE IN HAND, WE RECENTLY GAVE UP AN FSL POSITION IN THE SECTION. WE ARE RESPONDING
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FRONT-CHANNNEL, AND WILL VALUE YOUR AND EUR'S SUPPORT.
EAGLEBURGER

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